

**DAILY PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE**  
**35<sup>TH</sup> SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**WISCONSIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**HELD AT THE**  
**MADISON MARRIOTT WEST HOTEL**  
**AND CONFERENCE CENTER**

***Sunday Evening, June 13, 2004***

Members of the conference and guests gathered at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of Asbury United Methodist Church in Madison for the Service of Ordination and Commissioning. The clergy members of the conference, Bishops, and Ordinands processed into the worship area as the congregation sang "At the Font We Start Our Journey." Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader called the Annual Conference to order and offered the opening prayer. Sheri Graeber, Conference Lay Leader, and Rev. Paul Johnsen, Chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, presented the candidates for commissioning and ordination. They were found worthy by those present. The names of the candidates are included in *The Business of the Annual Conference* report, which follows these daily proceedings in the *Journal*. The Clergywomen's Choir sang "Sweet, Sweet Spirit." The scripture lesson for the service from Ephesians 2:4-10 was read by Rev. Mary Hedgcock. Bishop Rader delivered the sermon entitled "We Are What We Are." Four persons were commissioned as Probationary Members. Seven persons were ordained as Elders in Full Connection. Bishop Rader was assisted in the Ordination Service by Bishop Kwon, Oh-Suh of the Dongbu Conference of the Korean Methodist Church. A free-will offering was taken for the "Clergy in Transition" fund. Following the singing of "Take Now My Voice," by the Clergywomen's Choir, the Sacrament of Holy Communion was celebrated, with the newly commissioned and ordained ministers, assisted by others, serving the congregation. While communion was served, the congregation sang many familiar hymns, led by organist Mark Miller. The Clergywomen's Choir sang the anthem "I Want a Savior." The congregation went forth from the service singing "We Are Marching in the Light of God." Following the service, the newly commissioned and ordained ministers were greeted at a reception held in the church's narthex.

***Monday Morning, June 14, 2004***

Members of the Conference gathered in the Superior and Michigan rooms of the Madison Marriott West Hotel and Conference Center at 8:15 a.m. for a time of singing and praise, led by conference organist and musician, Mark Miller.

Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader called the 35<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Annual Conference to Order at 8:30 a.m. She shared some thoughts from John Wesley about the purpose of our conferencing.

Kevin Rice Myers, Conference Secretary, led the conference through the necessary organizational items. He noted that the roll call for this session of the Annual Conference is being taken at the time of registration, and shared greetings from several other Annual Conferences and from a number of clergy persons who have asked to be excused from attendance at this session of the Annual Conference.

He moved “that the bar of this conference now be established to include the platform at the front of the Superior and Michigan rooms of the Madison Marriott West Conference Center, all of the round tables on the floor of the Superior and Michigan rooms which are covered with white tablecloths, and the Conference Secretary’s tables to the right of the platform.” The motion was **approved**.

He moved that the following persons be given the privilege of sitting in the bar of the Conference **WITH VOICE**:

- Conference Speakers:
- Bishop Joel N. Martinez, San Antonio Area
- Deborah E. Bass, Deputy General Secretary for Administration of the General Board of Global Ministries
- Rev. Dan R. Dick, Research Coordinator for the General Board of Discipleship
- Bishop Kwon, Oh-Suh, of the Dongbu Conference of the Korean Methodist Church
- Mark Miller, Conference Organist and Musician
- Scott Anderson, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches
- Doug Anderson, Director of Ruben Job Center for Leadership Development
- Melody Patterson, representative of Wiley College
- Hal Wilde, President of North Central College
- Kenia da Silva Guimaraes, who is the Lina McCord Summer Intern for the Black College Fund
- Martha Blumer, Cokesbury Representative
- Judy Franken, Manager of the United Christian Resource Center
- Various guests who will be making presentations throughout the conference.
- All pastors from other annual conferences or denominations who are serving United Methodist Churches in the Wisconsin Conference.
- Vice-Chairs of Conference Boards and Agencies who are not members of the Annual Conference.

The motion was **approved**.

The secretary noted that several members of the Conference Staff are voting members of the Annual Conference.

He moved that the following persons to be given the privilege of sitting in the bar of the Conference **WITHOUT VOICE OR VOTE**:

- Our guests from the Dongbu Conference of the Korean Methodist Church who are listed on the inside cover of the agenda booklet
- Episcopal Administrative Assistant: Cindy Churan
- Conference Computer Support Specialist: Linda Firestone
- Service Department Manager: Katie Hoepfner
- Conference Archivist: Mary Schroeder
- Program and Arrangements Committee Members who are not Conference Members
- Video Technicians from Janesville: Cargill UMC

- Seminary students related to the Wisconsin Conference who are certified candidates for ministry
- Supply pastors who are serving churches in the Wisconsin Conference
- Alice Reimer McKee, a retired member of the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference living in Wisconsin who is attending our conference session.

The motion was **approved**.

He moved that the following persons be elected as Tellers and Assistant Secretaries for this session of the Annual Conference:

**Tellers:**

Paul Yoder  
Don Gribble  
Mary Ann Conklin  
Dong Su Lee  
Pat Nolet  
Rom Pegram  
David Carlson  
Mike Weaver  
Ron Kral  
Nancy Anderson  
Skip Robertson  
Kyochul Shin  
Ruth Egerer  
Deb Gorman  
Kennedy Annor  
Joan Frost  
Lisa Lombardo  
Phil Airhart

**Assistant Secretaries**

Joyce Alford  
Phil Airhart  
Carolyn Saunders  
Jean Ehnert Nicholas  
Ron Kral  
Linda Firestone

The motion was **approved**.

The secretary then shared information about the *Conference Workbook* and about procedures for speaking on the floor of the conference and making motions.

Mark Geisthardt, Agenda Chairperson, placed the **agenda** for this session before the Conference.

Cec Holder, a member of the Nominations Committee, presented the preliminary report of the **Nominations Committee**. She noted that all boards and agencies will be electing their own chairpersons.

Doug Stallsmith, Chairperson of the **Council on Finance and Administration**, Lisa King, Director of Finance and Administration, and Jack Werner, a member of the council, presented the report of the Council on Finance and Administration, and the preliminary report on the **proposed 2005 Budget**. They noted changes in the General Church Apportionment figures. The net expense total of the proposed budget is \$7,354,901.

Bishop Rader spoke about the **Sister Relationship** that we are establishing with the Dongbu (East) Conference of the Korean Methodist Church. She introduced Bishop Kwon, Oh-Suh, Bishop of the Dongbu Conference, and Rev. Jung, Hee-Soo, Superintendent of the Nicolet District of the Wisconsin Conference. The Conference greeted Bishop Kwon with a standing ovation. Rev. Jung introduced the delegates from the Dongbu Conference. Bishop Kwon brought greetings to the Wisconsin Conference on behalf of the churches and members of the Dongbu Conference. Rev. Jung translated.

Bishop Rader invited Rev. Park, Shin-Jun, Executive Secretary of the Sister Relationship Committee of the Dongbu Conference, and Rev. Jane Follmer Zekoff, Director of Ministry and Outreach of the Wisconsin Conference, to the platform to act as witnesses while Bishop Kwon and Bishop Rader signed documents of agreement establishing the Sister Relationship between the Dongbu Conference and the Wisconsin Annual Conference.

Bishop Rader presented Bishop Kwon and the members of the delegation from the Dongbu Conference with “Dream Catchers” made by the members of the Oneida United Methodist Church, and with copies of a book entitled “The Leading Women,” compiled by Bishop Judith Craig. It is the story of the first women who were elected as Bishops in The United Methodist Church.

Bishop Kwon presented Bishop Rader with a bolo tie bearing a medallion with the logos of both conferences on it, and announced that each member of the Wisconsin Annual Conference will receive one of these as a gift.

Linda Pliska asked if Bishop Kwon’s address could be translated and distributed to the Conference. Hee-Soo Jung indicated that that would be done.

Tina Lang, Steve Polster, and Diane Schobert, representatives of the **Transformation Team**, presented information about the **Circuit Ministry Plan** which is being implemented in the Annual Conference this year. They shared video clips of a presentation by Doug Anderson, Director of Ruben Job Center for Leadership Development, about the Circuit Ministry Program

Bishop Rader invited the members of the conference to move to the Worship Area for the Opening Worship Service.

Members of the conference gathered in the Worship Area at 10:45 a.m. for the Opening Worship Service. Mark Miller, conference musician, led the conference in the singing of several songs from “The Faith We Sing.” The scripture lesson was 2 Corinthians 6:1-11. Bishop Rader preached a powerful sermon entitled “A Wide-open Spacious Life.” Readers during the service were Yul Kwon, Edwin Vargas, Sue Capelle, and Parker Haffele. The District Superintendents served as greeters and ushers. The offering taken during the service will be used to support United Methodist Children’s Ministries in Wisconsin.

### ***Monday Afternoon, June 14, 2004***

Bishop Rader called the Annual Conference to order at 1:05 p.m. She introduced Bill White, the Conference Chancellor, and thanked him for his work and assistance.

Bishop Rader then introduced Deborah Bass, Deputy General Secretary for Administration of the General Board of Global Ministries, who spoke to the conference about “Community Ministries: Faith and Love in Action.” The text of her message is printed in Volume 1 of the *2004 Wisconsin Conference Journal*.

Bishop Rader announced that one copy of the book “*The Present Future*” will be given to each congregation in the Wisconsin Conference. This gift has been made possible through grants from the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation and from the Episcopal Office. Bishop Rader encouraged each congregation to study and discuss this book.

Frank Gaylord spoke to the conference about new possibilities and resources for dealing with conflict resolution.

Bishop Rader introduced Anita Genrich, who spoke about the Health and Welfare Ministries of the Annual Conference. She introduced Jeff Virchow, Chair of the Board of Global Ministries,

Virchow presented **Action Item 18: Resolution Establishing Covenant Relationship with Harbor House Crisis Shelter.**

Craig Myrbo moved to amend the resolution by adding to HHCS Expectation 1 the words “specifically including those relating to labor relations” after the words “social principles.” The **motion to amend** was **defeated**.

**Action Item 18** was **approved as presented**.

Virchow moved **Action Item 19: Resolution Affirming Covenant Relationship with Sheboygan Senior Community.** It was **approved**.

Bruce Bartel presented **Action Item 2: Local Church Camping Coordinator.**

Nancy Carmichael moved to amend Action Item 2 to include the words “and retreats” so that the text reads “for promotion of the Conference Camps and Retreats in that local church.” The **motion to amend** was **accepted** as a friendly amendment. **Action Item 2** was **approved as amended**.

Bartel presented **Action Item 3: Camp and Retreat Emphasis Sunday.** It was **approved**.

Kaitlyn Aliota presented **Action Item 4: United Methodist Youth Sunday.** It was **approved**.

Diane Quade presented **Action Item 6: United Methodist Women’s Sunday.** It was **approved**.

She presented Bishop Rader with a new diamond United Methodist Women’s pin.

The District Superintendents joined Bishop Rader on the platform for the **Message of the Cabinet**. They presented Bishop Rader with a dozen roses to express their appreciation for her ministry among us, and the conference affirmed this with a round of applause. Since Bishop Rader is moving to Chicago after her retirement, they also presented her with a pair of tickets to the Chicago Bears – Green Bay Packers game in Chicago this fall.

Hee-Soo Jung presented the message of the cabinet. The text of his message is printed in Volume 1 of the *2004 Wisconsin Conference Journal*.

Paul Johnsen, Chairperson of the **Board of Ordained Ministry**, introduced those persons who have been certified as Local Pastors since the last Annual Conference session, those pastors who are serving their first appointment in the Wisconsin Conference, and those who were commissioned and ordained on Sunday evening.

Bishop Rader thanked them for their ministry, and led the conference in a time of prayer.

The Bishop then noted that in her twelve years in Wisconsin she has been privileged to ordain 112 persons as Elders and Deacons. She has had a certificate prepared outlining their Line of Ordination back to John Wesley. A copy of this certificate will be given to each person that she has ordained during her ministry.

Wes Falk, representing Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, presented a video about the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Seminary, which is being celebrated in 2003-2004.

Following announcements, the Conference took a 12 ½ minute recess.

Bishop Rader introduced Kenia da Silva Guimaraes, the **2004 Lina McCord Scholar**. Guimaraes, a graduate student at Clark College, spoke about the ministry that is provided by the historically Black Colleges and Universities related to The United Methodist Church, and urged support of the **Black College Fund**.

Kaitlyn Aliota, President of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, thanked Bishop Rader for her support of youth ministries in the Wisconsin Conference. She spoke about the many ministry opportunities that are available for Wisconsin United Methodist Youth. [*Editor's Note: The text of her remarks is printed in Volume 1 of the 2004 Wisconsin Conference Journal.*]

Amy Valdez-Barker, Conference Youth Coordinator, recognized Aliota for her many years of service among the Wisconsin Conference Youth. She then introduced the first class to graduate from the **Youth Ministry Institute** and presented them with Certificates of Completion. They are:

Carol Beckmann, Whitefish Bay UMC  
Janice Beutin, Wauwatosa Avenue UMC  
Susan Bresser, Sun Prairie UMC  
Debi Burtard, Elkhorn: First UMC  
Yvonne Chojnacki, Stevens Point: St. Paul's UMC  
Jon Edgren, Mequon UMC  
Mary Ann Floerke, Rewey UMC  
Brian Hazlett, Fort Atkinson UMC  
David Jacobs, Beaver Dam UMC  
JD McCarty, Janesville: Cargill UMC  
Marie McDougal, Suamico UMC  
Kristine E. Pepper, Prairie du Sac: Concordia UMC  
Karen K. Rankin, Sheboygan  
Ellen Rasmussen, Fond du Lac: Covenant UMC  
Janice Robbins, Waupaca: First UMC  
Leanne Rose, Oshkosh: First UMC  
Melissa Schlei, Oconomowoc: Good Shepherd UMC  
Phyllis Thompson, Oshkosh: Algoma Boulevard UMC  
Julie Wilson, Lodi UMC

She also presented Certificates of Appreciation to:

Becky Foster, Marshfield: Zion UMC  
Russell Roelke, West Bend UMC  
Drew Swanson, Madison: First UMC

Bishop Rader then presented Valdez-Barker with a certificate of appreciation for her work in leading the Youth Ministry Institute.

Bishop Rader offered a prayer of thanks for the Youth Ministry Institute graduates' ministry among the youth of the Annual Conference.

Melody Patterson, a representative of **Wiley College**, brought greetings to the Annual Conference. She shared information about the ministry of the college, and introduced Joan Carrington, a 1987 Alum of Wiley College from Wisconsin, who spoke about her experiences at the school.

Sheri Graeber, **Conference Lay Leader**, presented the **Message of the Conference Lay Leader**. The text of her message is printed in Volume 1 of the *2004 Wisconsin Conference Journal*. She presented Bishop Rader with a gift on behalf of the laity of the conference in recognition of the Bishop's strong support of lay ministries. The gift, a "Boyd's Bear," supports ministries with children.

Bishop Rader thanked Graeber for her ministry as Conference Lay Leader. She presented Graeber with a plaque in recognition of her ministry. The conference affirmed her ministry with a standing ovation.

Graeber introduced Sue Setterlund, Chairperson of the **Conference Nominations Committee**, who thanked the many people who have served on the conference boards and agencies during the last quadrennium. She introduced those who have been board, agency and committee chairpersons.

Diane Schobert, Phyllis Rodriguez, and Susan Mendenhall, shared a PowerPoint presentation about **Faith Alive**, and recognized those who have graduated from Faith Alive between 2001 and 2004. They are:

Donna Arndt  
Dan Curtis  
Mark Dallner  
Jeanie Gregerson  
Sharon Holtz  
Claire Josten  
Lisa Mink  
Dorothy Radley  
Phyllis Rodriguez  
Diane Schobert  
Allison Schultz  
Yer Vang  
Nancy Wooley

Graeber acknowledged a number of those who are receiving awards this year. All of the award recipients are printed in the "Awards and Recognitions" booklet, and will be listed in Volume 1 of the *2004 Wisconsin Conference Journal*. The Conference affirmed all of the award recipients with a standing ovation.

Judy Pier Lybeck spoke about the "**Rising Sun Camp**" for children of persons who are incarcerated. Bishop Rader read a letter sent to the Trinity United Methodist Church in Chippewa Falls by Royce Minnich, a prisoner at the Dodge County Correctional Institution. In the letter, Mr. Minnich explained that he had committed a crime against that church many years ago, stealing money from the church office, and asked for the church's forgiveness. As a part of a "Victim Impact Program," he had been given an opportunity to make a project to give back to the community. He had used skills he had learned while in prison to crochet a blanket, which he sent to the church hoping that the church would sell it at their annual auction to restore the funds he had stolen. Rich Estrem-Fuller, pastor of Trinity UMC in Chippewa Falls, read a letter he had written to Mr. Minnich in reply, offering forgiveness and reconciliation. The blanket that was crocheted by Mr. Minnich will be auctioned off in a "silent auction" at this session of the Annual Conference, and the proceeds of the auction will be used to support the Rising Sun Camp.

Don Mendenhall, Chairperson of the **General/Jurisdictional Conference Delegation**, introduced Hee-Soo Jung as the delegation's nominee for endorsement by the Wisconsin Annual Conference as a candidate for election to the Episcopacy at the 2004 North Central Jurisdictional Conference. The conference affirmed Rev. Jung's ministry and the nomination with a standing ovation.

Mendenhall **moved** "that the 2004 Wisconsin Annual Conference endorse Hee-Soo Jung for the Episcopal election processes at the North Central Jurisdictional Conference, July 14-17, 2004." The motion was **approved unanimously**.

Rev. Jung spoke to the conference and thanked the members for their support.

Bill Helwig, President of the **Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation**, spoke about the work of the Foundation. He presented **Action Item 7: Designation of Earnings from the “New Ministries Fund”**. It was **approved**.

Bishop Rader announced that the offering taken at the Sunday evening Ordination Service for the Clergy in Transition Fund totaled \$2,678.17 plus 10,000 Korean won. The offering taken at the Monday morning worship service totaled \$3,469.08 plus 1,000 Korean won. She reminded the conference about the Mark Miller Concert that will take place this evening.

The secretary read announcements.

Bishop Rader offered a closing prayer.

The conference recessed for the evening at 5:00 p.m.

### ***Monday Evening, June 14, 2004***

Monday evening was scheduled as a “free evening” for rest, relaxation, and re-connection. Conference musician Mark Miller presented a concert in the worship area, featuring piano music by Bach, Debussy, and Beethoven, as well as contemporary selections, his own compositions, hymn singing, and a delightful play entitled “Jack’s Journey: A Brief History of John Wesley’s Journey to Aldersgate Street.” Parts in the play were portrayed by several members of the conference. Those present responded to Mark Miller’s music several times with standing ovations.

### ***Tuesday Morning, June 15, 2004***

Bishop Rader called the conference together at 8:30 a.m. with the singing of “This is The Day.” She offered an opening prayer.

She announced the United Methodist Committee On Relief has provided a \$10,000 emergency grant to support flood relief efforts in the Fond du Lac area. She noted that the “ingathering” this year has so far been supported by 215 churches, who have donated 251 flood buckets, 1160 sewing kits, and 2823 hygiene/health kits. Seventy of the flood buckets have already been sent directly to the Fond du Lac area for immediate use. The items gathered have filled 2 trucks so far, which have been sent to the UMCOR Distribution Center. The volunteers are working to fill a third. Those who have brought items for the “ingathering” who have not yet turned them in were encouraged to do so by the end of today.

Doug Stallsmith, Chairperson of the Council on Finance and Administration, and Joan Fordham, Chairperson of the Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance, and Equitable Compensation, presented a report on the results of the **Feasibility Study for a Capital Campaign to Support Retirees’ Health Insurance Premiums**. Stallsmith noted that, while there was significant recognition of the need, the support was not sufficient to conduct a capital campaign at this time. A task force has been appointed to study the issue of financing retiree health insurance premiums. Recommendations, which may include a capital campaign, will be made to the Council on Finance and Administration later this summer, and a report will be made to the 2005 session of the Annual Conference.

Joan Fordham shared perspectives from the Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance and Equitable Compensation about the retiree health insurance premiums.

Don Mendenhall, Becky Foster, and Jorge Mayorga Solis, and Jessie Hakes, presented the report of the **General Conference Delegation**.

Jerry Eckert **moved** “that the Wisconsin Annual Conference request from the Judicial Council a declaratory decision under Paragraph 2610 on the constitutionality of Paragraph 346.1 in light of Paragraphs 18 and 31 of the constitution and in light of Paragraphs 341.5 and 344.2.”

Fran Deaner **moved** the following **substitute**: “That the matter of the Eckert request for a declaratory decision be referred to the General Board of Higher Education as a part of their study related to Local Pastors.”

Jerry Lipka moved to amend the Deaner substitute by adding the following sentence: “In addition the matter will be sent to the Judicial Council for a declaratory decision.”

The Lipka motion was accepted. The Deaner substitute motion was approved as amended, and became the main motion.

The Eckert motion was **approved as amended**.

Joan Fordham, Chairperson of the Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance and Equitable Compensation, moved the adoption of **Action Item 10: Resolution on Housing Allowance for Retired and Disabled Clergy**. It was **approved**.

Fordham moved the adoption of **Action Item 11: Resolution on Past Service Annuity Rate**. It was **approved**.

Fordham moved the adoption of **Action Item 12: Resolution on Minimum Compensation**.

Skipper Ford **moved to amend** Action Item 12 by deleting the words “plus 1 %”, which will lower the minimum compensation in the resolution.

Steve Zekoff **moved to table** this motion until we have an answer to how the motion affects the recommended minimum salary figures. The **motion to table** was **approved**.

Fordham moved the adoption of **Action Item 13: Resolution on 2004 Formal Funding Plan for Pre-1982 Pension Liability**. It was **approved**.

Fordham moved the adoption of **Action Item 14: Health Insurance Premiums for Surviving Spouses of Active Clergy**.

Sue Burwell **moved to amend** the motion by adding the following paragraph:

However, the Superintendent of the District where the deceased clergy last served may request from the Joint Board subsidy equal to the amount a surviving spouse would have received if the clergy had died during retirement after reaching age 65. This request may be resubmitted annually.

Jerry Lipka **moved to substitute** the following for the Burwell amendment:

In the event of the death of a fulltime, active (not retired), clergy member under appointment serving a local charge in the Wisconsin Conference and enrolled in the Conference Health Insurance Plan at the time of death, at the request of the District Superintendent the Joint Board will pay from the Emergency Hardship Account the total health insurance premiums in full for three months and will pay 50% of the premiums for nine additional months for surviving spouse and dependent children. Following this twelve-month period, the surviving spouse is eligible to participate in the Conference Health Insurance Plan and shall receive a subsidy equal to the amount that a surviving spouse would receive if the clergy had died during retirement after age 65. Such payment shall come from the Emergency Hardship account.

Fran Deaner **moved the previous question on all that is before us**. The **motion to close debate** was **approved**

The **Lipka substitute motion** was **adopted** and became the amendment to the main motion.

The **amendment to the main motion** was **adopted**.

**Action Item 14** was **approved as amended**.

The secretary read announcements.

Bishop Rader shared a number of joys and concerns

The conference recessed at 10:23 a.m. for the **Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving**, which was held in the Worship Area beginning at 10:30 a.m., and conducted in the manner of the Community of Taizé. The service opened with the singing of “Holy Spirit, Come to Us,” “Come and Fill our Hearts,” “Alleluia,” and “In the Lord I’ll be Ever Thankful.” The scripture lesson was read from Philippians 2:5-11. Following the singing of “O Lord, Hear My Prayer,” and an extended period of silence, Kevin Rice Myers, Conference Secretary, led the intercessions and prayers of the people with the singing of “Lord, Let Your Kingdom Come.” The secretary read the names of the lay and clergy members of the conference and clergy spouses who have died since the annual conference last gathered. The names are listed in the Memoirs section of the *2004 Wisconsin Conference Journal*. Following the reading of the names of those who have died during the past year, the congregation sang “The Lord’s Prayer,” “With You, O Lord,” and “Bless the Lord.” The Scripture lesson from John 14:23, 25-27 was read, followed by the singing of “Nothing Can Trouble” and “Live in Charity.” Bishop Rader offered a closing prayer, and the congregation departed while singing “Come, Rejoice in God.” Other participants in the service were: Mark Miller, pianist; Howard Hintzman and Deb Kuehl, cantors.

### ***Tuesday Afternoon, June 15, 2004***

Bishop Rader called the annual conference to order at 1:30 p.m. Mark Miller led the conference in the singing of “Oh, How I Love Jesus.”

Bishop Rader introduced **Bishop Joel Martinez** of the San Antonio Area, who spoke to the conference about our common ministries and the connection between our conferences. He noted the changes that are taking place in the cultural makeup of our country, and the need for the church to continue to respond to these cultural changes. He reminded us that culture matters, language matters, and that one pattern does not fit all.

Velma Smith asked if the text of the messages of Deborah Bass, Bishop Martinez, and Rev. Dan Dick, could be distributed. Bishop Rader indicated that we would look into this.

*[Editor’s Note: Bishop Martinez’ remarks were not available for publication at the time the 2004 Wisconsin Conference Journal went to press. If they become available at a later date, they will be published on the Wisconsin Conference website. The text of the remarks by Deborah Bass and Dan Dick are included in the reports section of Volume 1 of the 2004 Wisconsin Conference Journal.]*

The conference resumed consideration of **Action Item 12: Resolution on Minimum Compensation**, which had been tabled during the morning plenary session.

Skipper Ford **withdrew his motion** from this morning. He **moved** “that the Minimum Compensation for Full Members be \$29,435, Full-Time Local Pastors \$25,908, and Student Pastors \$22,076.” The **motion to amend** was **defeated**

**Action Item 12** was **approved as originally presented**.

David Ogden presented **Action Item 15: Retiree Health Insurance Premiums, Recommendation 1**

Steve Zekoff **moved to amend** Action Item 15, Recommendation 1, by adding the phrase “or other Methodist” before the word “denomination” in the last line. The **motion to amend** was **approved**

**Action Item 15, Recommendation 1** as amended was **defeated** on a count vote of 243 yes, 303 no.

Hal Wilde, President of **North Central College**, brought greetings to the Conference from the college, and spoke about the ministry of the college.

Bishop Rader and the District Superintendents gathered on the platform for the **Reading of the Appointments**. The Bishop gave gifts to the superintendents who will be leaving the cabinet this year: Lynn Scott, Fran Deaner and Velma Smith. She thanked them for their ministry. The Bishop then introduced Jorge Luis Mayorga Solis, who will be the District Superintendent of the Winnebago and Nicolet Districts. She invited Bishop Martinez to join her in the liturgy for installing Rev. Mayorga as a District Superintendent.

Bishop Rader and the District Superintendents read the appointments for the coming conference year.

Following a time of singing, the secretary read announcements, and Bishop Rader recessed the plenary session for the afternoon. A brief Clergy Session was held following the Tuesday Afternoon Plenary Session. The record of that Clergy Session is included following the minutes of the Sunday afternoon Clergy Session.

Members and friends of the conference gathered in the Worship Area at 4:15 p.m. for the **Service of Thanksgiving and Recognition**, which celebrated the ministry of those who are retiring this year. The service began with the singing of “Be Thou My Vision.” During a time of Celebration of the Call, Blessings, and Faithful Service, each retiree’s favorite hymn was played, their favorite scripture and pictures from their ministry were displayed on the screens. Howard Hintzman invited each of the retirees to share one story about their ministry. Bishop Rader expressed the conference’s appreciation to the retirees for their ministry. Marilynn Rushton, representing this year’s class of retirees, “passed the mantle” to Jill Quilling, representing this year’s class of ordinands. The Service of Thanksgiving and Recognition concluded with the singing of “Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore.” The conference then recessed until the evening banquet.

### *Tuesday Evening, June 15, 2004*

Members and friends of the Conference gathered at 6:30 p.m. in the Michigan and Superior rooms of the Madison Marriott West Hotel and Conference Center for a banquet and program in celebration of the ministry of Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader. Bishop Rader, who has served the Wisconsin Conference from 1992 to 2004, will be retiring on September 1, 2004. Dan Schwerin, District Superintendent of the Metro South District, acted as host for the evening. He welcomed those present, and introduced Susan MacGregor, a Lay Member of the West Michigan Annual Conference and longtime personal friend of Bishop Rader, who offered the blessing for the meal. Following the banquet, the United Methodist Clergywomen’s Choir offered three songs, “A Little Ditty,” “Gather the Cloud of Witnesses” and “Steppin Out”, all written by Susan Beehler. Representatives of conference boards and agencies offered a Litany of Appreciation for Bishop Rader’s ministry. Following each group of presenters, those gathered sang “Walk With Me, I Will Walk With You.” Chris Bethke and Norm Stephenson presented the Conference Gift honoring Bishop Rader. The new retreat center at Pine Lake Camp will be named the Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader Retreat Center in her honor. Bishop Rader expressed her appreciation for the many people who have helped to make her ministry possible here in Wisconsin over the past 12 years. Entertainment was provided by The Montana Logging and Ballet Company. (“They don’t dance and

they're not authorized to operate equipment with sharp edges. The Montana Logging and Ballet Company is a singing group of satirical mischief makers.") Following the entertainment, Scott Anderson, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, offered a closing benediction.

### ***Wednesday, June 16, 2004***

Members of the conference gathered in the plenary area at 8:15 a.m. for a time of music and singing led by conference musician Mark Miller. Bishop Rader shared a reading of Psalm 98 from Eugene Peterson's translation of the scriptures, "The Message." She recognized and thanked Miller for his musical leadership at this session of the conference, and the conference expressed its appreciation with a standing ovation.

Bishop Rader reported the results of the ingathering as of Tuesday evening:

281 Churches have brought:

274 flood buckets

2539 school bags

6406 health kits

\$5,960.78 for shipping

18 volunteers assisted in packing the materials, which filled 3 trucks

Hee-Soo Jung, Chairperson of the Cabinet, introduced the **Regional and Episcopal Administrative Assistants**: Sherry Malone, Barb Franken, Marge Miller, Bonita Smith, Barb Ridgely, and Cindy Churan. The conference expressed its appreciation for their work with a round of applause.

Sue D'Alessio spoke briefly about **Circuit Ministry** and invited people to sit this morning with others from their circuit as an opportunity to become better acquainted

Bishop Rader introduced Rev. Dan Dick, Research Coordinator of the General Board of Discipleship, who spoke about "The Greatest Challenge: Living in Community in a Culture of Individualism." He invited the conference to discuss around their tables the following questions related to what it means to be a faith community:

How do we define community in our own church? In the Wisconsin AC? Who is "us?"

Who is "them?" What are we doing/can we do to expand our definition of "us?"

In what ways do our congregations offer a message of interdependence to counter the cultural commitment to individuality?

In what ways might our circuit structure encourage, empower, and model greater interdependence?

The text of his message is printed in Volume 1 of the *2004 Wisconsin Conference Journal*.

Following the table discussion Bishop Rader shared several joys and concerns. She noted that the delegation from the Dongbu Conference of the Korean Methodist Church have given a donation of \$10,000 to the Scholarship Fund that the Wisconsin Conference is establishing to support a student from the Dongbu Conference attending Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Scott Anderson, Executive Director of the **Wisconsin Council of Churches**, spoke to the conference about the new mandatory reporting requirements for clergy related to suspected cases of abuse that were recently passed by the Wisconsin Legislature. He also spoke about the need for safe housing, and shared a video entitled "Opening Doors."

Bishop Rader introduced Martha Blumer, **Cokesbury Representative**, who spoke about the ministry of and resources available from The United Methodist Publishing House. Blumer presented the Wisconsin Conference with a check for \$11,611.53, which represents the conference's portion

of the net proceeds from the Publishing House this year. According to *The Book of Discipline*, these funds are to be used to support the clergy pension program of the Conference.

Joan Fordham **moved** “that the monies from the United Methodist Publishing House (Cokesbury) be sent to the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits to be used to help fund the pension liabilities of the Central Conferences where there is a more desperate need for funding alternatives.” The **motion was approved**.

The secretary read announcements.

The conference recessed at 10:15 a.m. to go to the Healing Service.

The **Healing Service** was held in the Worship Area beginning at 10:30 a.m. The service opened with the singing of “Guide My Feet,” “Precious Lord, Take My Hand,” and “You Are Mine.” The scripture lesson was read from Psalm 27. During the service there was a time of confession, Blessing and Anointing with Oil, and the singing of hymns. The service concluded with the singing of “My Life Flows On.” Participants in the service were Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader, Mark Miller, pianist, Robert Eagle, Chaplain, Susan Payne, Parish Nurse, and Velma Smith, Tom Lambrecht, George Gay, Wesley White, Carly Kuntz, Liz Fabiola Villagarcia, and Hyo-Won Park. Members of the Board of Lay Ministry served as greeters.

### ***Wednesday Afternoon, June 16, 2004***

Bishop Rader called the conference to order at 1:00 p.m.

Gary Cole, pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Pines in Minocqua, requested a moment of personal privilege. He noted that in doing research recently, he discovered that the Minocqua church’s apportionments for the year 1894 were two dollars, and that the church had failed to pay them. He presented Bishop Rader with \$2, as payment in full of these past apportionments.

Bishop Rader announced that the blanket knitted by Royce Minnich had been purchased in the silent auction by Lisa King, Conference Director of Finance and Administration, for \$425. King shared with the conference that the blanket will be placed in the Conference Center in Sun Prairie as a reminder that we hope there can someday be reconciliation with the longtime conference employee who was recently sentenced to several years in prison for embezzling funds from the conference. The funds raised in the silent auction will be used to support the Rising Sun Camps for children of persons who are incarcerated.

Joan Fordham resumed presentation of the recommendations from the **Joint Board of Pensions, Insurance, and Equitable Compensation**. She moved the adoption of **Action Item 15: Retiree Health Insurance Premiums, Recommendation 2**.

Craig Conklin made the following **motion**:

“I move that the Annual Conference freeze the amount paid for current retirees at 72% for Medicare supplement premium.

I further move that a task force be set up to look at the amount the Annual Conference pays future retirees for medical supplement insurance with a promise that the amount a retiree receives at the time of their retirement will remain constant and not change.”

Bishop Rader noted that this motion would require adding \$95,000 to the 2005 proposed budget, and that our conference rules would normally require that the motion be sent to the Implications Committee. She also noted that the implications of the motion are already known, due to the advance information provided by the Joint Board.

Sandra Hermann **moved to suspend the rule** requiring referral of the Conklin motion to the Implications Committee. The **motion to suspend the rules** was **approved**, and the Conklin motion was not sent to Implications Committee.

The **Conklin motion** was **defeated**.

**Action Item 15, Recommendation 2**, was **approved as presented**.

Fordham moved the adoption of **Action Item 15: Retiree Health Insurance Premiums, Recommendation 3**. The motion was **approved**

Fordham moved the adoption of **Action Item 15: Retiree Health Insurance Premiums, Recommendation 4**. The motion was **approved**.

Myron Talcott **moved to refer Action Item 15: Retiree Health Insurance Premiums, Recommendation 1** (which was defeated on Tuesday afternoon) to the Joint Board of Pensions, Health Insurance and Equitable Compensation for further study, with a report back to 2005 Annual Conference. The **motion to refer** was **approved**.

Fordham **moved the adoption** of the **entire report of the Joint Board of Pensions, Health Insurance and Equitable Compensation**. The motion was **approved**.

Steve Zekoff presented the report of the **Rules Committee**, which is found in **Action Item 16: Proposed Rules Changes**.

He moved **Proposed Rules Change 16-1**. It was **approved**

Zekoff noted that **Proposed Rules Change 16-2** was submitted by the Conference Council on Youth Ministries. Zekoff called upon Kaitlyn Aliota, President of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries, who **withdrew Proposed Rules Change 16-2 from consideration** at this time.

Zekoff moved **Proposed Rules Change 16-3**. The motion was **approved**.

Zekoff moved **Proposed Rules Change 16-4**. The motion was **approved**.

Zekoff moved **Proposed Rules Change 16-5**.

Jaime Nolla **moved to refer Proposed Rules Change 16-5** to the Council on Finance and Administration for report back to 2005 Annual Conference. The **motion to refer** was **approved**.

Zekoff moved **Proposed Rules Change 16-6**. The motion was **approved**.

Zekoff moved **Proposed Rules Change 16-7**. The motion was **approved**.

Zekoff moved **Proposed Rules Change 16-8**. The motion was **approved**.

Zekoff moved **Proposed Rules Change 16-9**. The motion was **approved**.

Zekoff moved **Proposed Rules Change 16-10**. The motion was **approved**.

Zekoff moved **Proposed Rules Change 16-11**, amending the language to reflect the action of the Annual Conference yesterday in amending Action Item 14. **Proposed rules change 16-11** was **approved as amended**.

Zekoff moved **Proposed Rules Change 16-12**, amending the language to reflect the action of the Annual Conference yesterday in rejecting Action Item 15, Recommendation 1. **Proposed rules change 16-12** was **approved as amended**.

Zekoff **moved the adoption of the entire report of the Rules Committee**. The motion was **approved**

Wesley White presented the list of nominations to the **General Agency Nominations Pool**. He explained how representatives are selected by the Jurisdictional Conference for service on Gen-

eral Boards and Agencies. One name was added to the printed list. The list of General Agency nominations was **approved as amended**.

Roger Clapp presented the report of the **Episcopacy Committee**.

Bishop Rader recognized the **General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegates**, and invited people to attend the North Central Jurisdictional Conference in Davenport, Iowa July 14-17.

Jeff Virchow, Chairperson of the **Conference Board of Global Ministries**, spoke about our conference's **partnership with the Methodist Church of Cuba**. Donna Veatch reported on several mission trips to Cuba that have been made by people from the Wisconsin Conference.

Virchow presented **Action Item 21: Partner Relationship with Methodist Church in Cuba**. It was **approved**.

Bishop Rader invited Jorge and Rosy Mayorga to lead the conference in singing "Cantemos Al Señor."

Virchow concluded the report of the Board of Global Ministries by "passing the mantle of the 'Lance Herrick Memorial Shirt'" to Bishop Rader. *[Editor's Note: See Daily Proceedings of the 2002 Wisconsin Annual Conference, 2002 Wisconsin Conference Journal, Volume 1, p. 19.]*

Bob Spinti, Chairperson of the **Conference Board of Discipleship**, presented **Action Item 1: Resolution on United Christian Resource Center**. It was **approved**.

Kaitlyn Aliota, President of the **Conference Council on Youth Ministries**, presented **Action Item 5: District "Open Forums"**. It was **approved**.

Aliota **moved the adoption of the entire report of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries**. It was **approved**.

Forrest Wells, Superintendent of the Coulee District, presented **Action Item 8: Resolution on the Discontinuance of the Readstown United Methodist Church**. The motion was **approved**.

Nancy Moffatt, Superintendent of the Chippewa District, presented **Action Item 9: Resolution on the Discontinuance of the Christie United Methodist Church**. Craig Conklin, the last pastor of the Christie UMC, spoke about the decommissioning of the Christie UMC building. The **motion to discontinue Christie UMC** was **approved**.

Moffatt and Wells led the conference in a litany celebrating the past ministries of these congregations. Conklin led the conference in prayer.

The conference sang the first verse of "The Church's One Foundation."

Bishop Rader presented a framed certificate from the General Council on Finance and Administration celebrating the Wisconsin Conference's **100% payment of General Church Apportionments**. The certificate was received on behalf of the conference by representatives of the Superior: Faith, Belmont and Whig United Methodist Churches. These congregations have all made significant strides in payment of their conference apportionments in the past year.

The Bishop celebrated that the Wisconsin Conference has paid its apportionments in full for 15 years in a row.

Dan Zei, Chairperson of the **Board of Congregation and Parish Development**, presented **Action Item 20: Resolution on the Administration of the Revolving Loan Fund Account**. It was **approved**.

Doug Stallsmith, Chairperson of the Council on Finance and Administration, **moved the adoption of the 2005 Proposed Budget as it was presented on Monday morning**. The **budget was approved as presented**.

Sue Setterlund, Chairperson of the **Conference Nominations Committee**, presented the Nominations Report, including the material in the conference packet and the addendum. She **moved** “that the nominations committee be authorized to fill any vacancies that may occur during the year.” The motion was **approved**. The **report of the Nominations Committee** was **approved, and those persons nominated were elected**.

Bishop noted that the report of the **Vision and Quality Improvement Team** will be printed in the *2004 Wisconsin Conference Journal*.

Carolyn Saunders, Chairperson of the **Program and Arrangements Committee**, thanked all those that have helped to make this Annual Conference session possible. She announced that next year’s conference session will be held from June 12 – 15, 2005 at the Madison Marriott West Hotel and Conference Center.

Bishop Rader expressed her thanks to Bill White, Conference Chancellor, and Kevin Rice Myers, Conference Secretary, for their support and assistance during her time as Bishop of the Wisconsin Conference. She presented each of them with a plaque of appreciation. The Bishop then expressed her thanks to the members of the conference for their fine work and support.

The Secretary read announcements.

Bishop Rader announced that conference would adjourn at the conclusion of the communion service, which will be held in the worship area immediately following the conclusion of this plenary session.

The conference recessed for the closing worship and communion service at 3:15 p.m.

Members and friends of the Conference gathered in the Worship Area for the **Service of Thanksgiving for Shared Ministry**. The service opened with the singing of “We are Singing for the Lord is our Light,” “Living for Jesus,” and “He Who Began a Good Work in You.” Bishop Rader shared reflections and a Blessing of the Future Ministry of the Wisconsin Annual Conference. There was a time of Blessing of Bishop Rader. The offering taken during the service will be used to support the scholarship for the Dongbu Conference of South Korea at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Bishop Rader celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Communion, which was shared among all present. The service closed with the singing of “The Summons.” Participants in the service, in addition to Bishop Rader, were youth musicians from First United Methodist Church of Appleton, Elizabeth and Anna Leicht, members of the Korean Caucus, Kennedy Annor, Kaitlyn Aliota, and Sheri Graeber. Justin Lowe was the pianist. *The Service of Thanksgiving for Shared Ministry* concluded at 4:30 p.m.

The 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference adjourned *sine die* following the conclusion of the closing communion service.

The foregoing is a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference.

*Kevin Rice Myers, Conference Secretary*

*Editor’s Note: During the 2004 Annual Conference Session, several offerings were taken. Final totals for the Annual Conference Offerings are:*

<i>Clergy in Transition Fund:</i>	<i>\$2,872</i>	<i>Harbor House Crisis Shelter:</i>	<i>\$1,208</i>
<i>Bishop Sharon Zimmerman Rader</i>		<i>In-Gathering Shipping:</i>	<i>\$6,636</i>
<i>Retreat Center:</i>	<i>\$2,468</i>	<i>BGM Nickel Toss:</i>	<i>\$216</i>
<i>Dongbu Scholarship:</i>	<i>\$12,379</i>	<i>Youth Service Fund:</i>	<i>\$718</i>
<i>United Methodist Children’s Services:</i>	<i>\$1,198</i>		
<i>Northcott Neighborhood House:</i>	<i>\$1,198</i>	<b><i>Grand Total:</i></b>	<b><i>\$28,893</i></b>

**CLERGY SESSION**  
**OF THE**  
**WISCONSIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

*Sunday, June 13, 2004*

Bishop Rader called the 2004 Clergy Session of the Wisconsin Annual Conference to order at 2:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of Asbury United Methodist Church in Madison, Wisconsin. She spoke to the clergy session about the role of the Board of Ordained Ministry, and expressed her gratitude to the Board for its work.

Paul Johnsen, Chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, welcomed the clergy members of the conference, and offered an opening prayer.

Johnsen asked Bishop Rader to remind us of who is to be present at this clergy session. The Bishop noted that all clergy members of the conference – including deacons, elders, local pastors and student pastors under appointment of a bishop (full and part time) – and lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry may be present and have voice in the clergy session, but that according to Paragraph 605.6 of *The Book of Discipline*, only Elders and Deacons in Full Connection and lay members of the Board of Ordained Ministry may vote.

Karen Ebert, Chairperson of the Division of Elders of the Board of Ordained Ministry, presented **Questions 33, 35b, and 37a** of *The Business of the Annual Conference*, and introduced the following persons who are to be **elected as Full Clergy Members** of the Annual Conference and **Ordained as Elders**:

Carol Sue Bryce  
Nancy Lee Barnard Carmichael  
Mary Anne Conklin  
Jason Richard David Mahnke  
Timothy Stephen O'Brien  
Jill Quilling  
Amanda Marie Dawdy Stein

Following individual speeches of affirmation for each candidate, they were elected as Full Members of the Annual Conference. The clergy session **approved Questions 33, 35b, and 37a** of *The Business of the Annual Conference*.

Ebert presented **Question 28b**, and introduced those to be **elected as Probationary Members** of the Annual Conference and **Commissioned** to Pastoral Ministry:

Margaret Lybeck-Smoak  
Cherie Meyer  
Jean Schmidt

They were elected as Probationary Members of the Annual Conference, and the clergy session **approved Question 28b**.

Ebert presented **Question 29c**, and introduced Kathleen Jury, an Associate Member of the Annual Conference, who is to be elected as a Probationary member under the provisions of ¶416.2 and ¶421 of the *1992 Book of Discipline*. **Question 29c was approved** by the necessary three-fourths majority, and Kathleen Jury was elected as a Probationary Member of the Annual Conference.

Ebert introduced Hyunchul (Henry) Cho, who is to be commissioned as a Probationary Member Licensed for Pastoral Ministry at this evening's Ordination and Commissioning Service as a courtesy to the West Ohio Annual Conference.

Hee-Soo Jung, Chairperson of the Cabinet, presented the response of the District Superintendents to **Question 17**. The text of his response is printed in *The Business of The Annual Conference*.

Johnsen introduced Kevin Rice Myers, Executive Secretary of the Board of Ordained Ministry, who continued the presentation of the Board's report to the Clergy Session.

Rice Myers presented **Question 18a**, those to be elected to the Committee on Investigation, and **Question 18b**, those to be elected to the Administrative Review Committee, for the coming quadrennium. They were **elected**.

He presented **Questions 21a, 21b, and 21c**, those serving as full-time, part-time, and student local pastors. They were **approved**.

He presented **Question 21e**, and noted that Michael Gray-Ehnert will be serving as a full-time local pastor while seeking readmission to conference membership from Honorable Location. Question 21e was **approved**.

Rice Myers invited those who have completed the Five Year Course of Study during this past year to stand and be recognized.

He presented **Question 24** for information, and invited those pastors from other Annual Conferences or Methodist Denominations who are serving among us to stand and be recognized.

He presented **Question 25**, those pastors of other Christian denominations who are approved to serve appointments in the Annual Conference. They were **approved**. He invited them to stand and be recognized.

Rice Myers presented **Question 26b**. Rev. Dr. David Joyce, a clergy member of the Western North Carolina Conference who is serving as President of Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin, has requested Affiliate Membership in the Wisconsin Conference. Question 26b was **approved**.

He presented **Questions 30, 31, and 32a** for information.

He presented **Questions 41 and 42**, those transferring into the Annual Conference from other Annual Conferences or Methodist Denominations, for information. He invited those present to come forward and be introduced to the clergy session.

He presented **Question 45**, those transferring out of the Annual Conference, for information.

Rice Myers presented **Question 46**, those discontinued as Probationary Members. Hosea Kang-ford Yang has requested discontinuance effective January 1, 2004. Question 46 was **approved**.

He presented **Question 47** for information.

He presented **Question 48a**. Bruce Berg has requested the status of "Honorable Location – Retired." Question 48a was **approved**.

He presented **Question 48b** for information.

He presented **Question 50b**. Michael Ida has withdrawn from the Ministerial Office effective July 1, 2003, and Lynn Church has withdrawn from the Ministerial Office effective September 8, 2003. Question 50b was **approved**.

Rice Myers presented **Questions 52c and 52d**, and invited the Clergy Session to remember the following colleagues who have died since the last session of the Annual Conference:

S. Stephen Foster  
Richard Davis  
Eldon Riggs  
Lowell L. Reykdal  
Bernard Bartel  
Edith-Mary Ash

Following a time of silence, Rice Myers offered prayer in their memory.

He presented **Question 53** for information.

He presented **Question 54a**, those on *Leave of Absence for less than 5 years*. It was **approved**. He presented **Question 54a**, those on *Leave of Absence for more than 5 years*. It was **approved** by the necessary two-thirds majority.

He presented **Question 54c**, those placed on Leave of Absence since the last session of the Annual Conference. It was **approved**.

He presented **Question 54d** for information.

He presented **Question 55a**, those on *Family Leave for less than 5 years*. It was **approved**. He presented **Question 55a**, those on *Family Leave for more than 5 years*. It was **approved** by the necessary two-thirds majority.

He presented **Question 55c** for information.

He presented **Question 56**. Paul Nulton has requested Sabbatical Leave. It was **approved**.

Bishop Rader invited Nulton to share with the clergy session his plans for the coming year. He indicated that he will be researching and writing a book.

He presented **Question 57a**, those granted Incapacity Leave since the last session of the Annual Conference. It was **approved**.

He presented **Question 57c**, those granted Incapacity Leave at this session of the Annual Conference. He added the name of Jodi Arpke to the printed list. **Question 57c** was **approved as amended**.

He presented **Questions 58a, 60a, and 61a**, those retiring this year. They are:

Mary Hedgcock (FD)  
Arthur M. Arveson  
Roger Becker  
Bernadette Bruner  
Thomas Callahan  
Paul L. Francis  
Lois Grebe  
Henry H. Hall  
Edward Johnson  
Earl Kammerud  
John Machek  
June Nettles  
T. Thomas Nustad  
Linda N. Pliska  
Marilynn Mundy Rushton  
P. Kay Welsch  
Thomas E. White  
Lois Reed Takata (PE)  
Jenny Schroeder (Local Pastor, Effective 1/1/2004)  
Alice Richards (Local Pastor)

**Questions 58a, 60a, and 61a** were **approved**.

Rice Myers noted that Blaine Rader, husband of Bishop Rader and a clergy member of the West Michigan Conference, and Donald Heeringa, a clergy member of the Presbyterian Church, who have been serving among us, are also retiring this year.

Rice Myers invited all those who are retiring to come forward and be recognized. The clergy session affirmed their ministry with a standing ovation.

Rice Myers noted that **Questions 62, 63 and 64** are statistical charts and tables that are completed after the annual conference session.

He noted **Questions 65 through 69** pertain to persons who are certified in specialized areas of ministry.

He presented **Question 66**. Thad Rutter has completed the requirements for Professional Certification in Spiritual Formation this year. The certificate will be presented during one of the plenary sessions of the Annual Conference.

Rice Myers noted that **Questions 70 through 81** pertain to Diaconal Ministers, and that there are no changes related to Diaconal Ministers to report this year

He presented **Question 82**, those who have been appointed to serve less than full time *for less than 8 years*. He added the name of M. Lynn Scott to the printed list at ½ time, and removed the name of Jodi Arpke from the printed list. The list was **approved as amended**. He presented **Question 82**, those who have been appointed to serve less than full time *for more than 8 years*. The list was **approved** by the necessary two-thirds vote.

Rice Myers presented **Question 83**, adding the name of M. Lynn Scott, to Plover (1/2 time) for the period 7/1/2004 to 6/30/2005, to the printed list. It was **approved as amended**.

He presented **Question 87c**, those appointed to extension ministries under ¶335.1d, noting changes to the list since the last session of the Annual Conference. It was **approved**.

He presented **Question 88 and 89** for information.

He presented **Question 90**, Personal Notations, for information.

He presented **Question 91**. Next year's Annual Conference Session will be held at the Madison Marriott West Hotel and Conference Center from June 12 -15, 2005.

Paul Johnsen expressed his appreciation to all those who assist the Board of Ordained Ministry with its task of credentialing faithful, competent, and responsible clergy leaders for the Annual Conference. He invited the following persons to stand and be recognized:

Pastors who have had a person from their church be approved as a candidate this past year.

Inquiring Candidate Retreat Leaders

Candidacy mentors

Clergy/probationary mentors

District Committee members (including District Superintendents)

Continuing Education contact person

The Executive Secretary of the Board

Members of the Board of Ordained Ministry

Bishop Rader thanked Johnsen, who is completing his term as Chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, for his leadership during the past two years.

Johnsen placed the **entire report** of the Board of Ordained Ministry before the clergy session. It was **approved**.

Myron Talcott requested a moment of Personal Privilege to recognize Fred Brancel for his ministry in Iraq.

Bishop Rader announced that Sue Burwell will be the convener of the Committee on Investigation, and Bruce Bartel will be the convener of the Administrative Review Committee.

Following announcements, the clergy session adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

## RE-CONVENED CLERGY SESSION

*Tuesday Afternoon, June 15, 2004*

Bishop Rader called the 2004 Wisconsin Conference Clergy Session back to order in the Superior and Michigan rooms of the Madison Marriott West Hotel and Conference Center at 3:35 p.m.

Paul Johnsen, Chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry, read a letter from Bishop Walter Klaiber of the South Germany Annual Conference related to Markus Wegenast. Bishop Rader has requested the transfer of Wegenast to the Wisconsin Annual Conference, effective later this summer. The Board of Ordained Ministry of the South Germany Annual Conference has recommended Wegenast for Probationary Membership. However, due to complications that arise from German civil law, the South Germany Annual Conference is unable to commission Wegenast as a Probationary Member and then transfer him to the Wisconsin Conference.

Based upon the recommendation of the South Germany Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, the Wisconsin Conference Board of Ordained Ministry **recommends** “that Markus Wegenast be elected to Probationary Membership in the Wisconsin Conference and Commissioned to Pastoral Ministry (in the Elder Track).” The motion was **approved**.

Johnsen then explained that Wegenast will be coming to Wisconsin as soon as his visa can be arranged, and that the Cabinet anticipates that his appointment will begin either September 1 or October 1. Since he needs to be appointed somewhere until that time, the Board of Ordained Ministry **recommends** “that Marcus Wegenast be placed on Leave of Absence effective July 1, 2004.” The motion was **approved**.

Bishop Rader recessed the Extended Clergy Session at 3:45 p.m .